Wilcox et al. Serial No. 09/464,264 Amendment After Final Rejection March 31, 2005 Page 6

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments simply cancel claims 1-25, 43 and 44 without prejudice to applicant's right to file continuation and/or divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the cancelled claims. Claims 26-42, 45 and 46 are unchanged.

In response to Paragraph 2 of the Office Action, a copy of the International Search Report for International Application Publication No. WO 00/36560 is filed herewith.

Claims 1-46 are present in this application, and all claims stand rejected. Claims 1, 2, 6-13, 16-20, 23-27, 29, 30 and 40-46 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Hasegawa, U.S. Patent No. 5,055,662, in view of Drzaic et al, "A Printed and Rollable Bistable Electronic Display". This rejection is traversed. More specifically, this rejection is traversed on the grounds that all claims remaining in this application are directed to secure documents, and methods of securing documents, in which a message is disposed on a substrate and an electrophoretic medium is placed adjacent the substrate, the electrophoretic medium having first and second display states such that the message is visible when the medium is in one state but is obscured with the medium is in the other state. In effect, the electrophoretic medium is acting as an "electronic shutter" to hide or reveal the message which serves as an authentication marker for the secure document. Neither Hasegawa nor Drzaic discloses any such electronic shutter construction. Hasegawa describes a "smart card" using a conventional cholesteric liquid crystal display used to display arbitrary data (Hasegawa, column 2, line 24 and column 4, lines 10-11) and there is no suggestion that the liquid crystal display be used to hide or reveal anything behind the display itself. As the Office Action concedes, Drzaic displays only the preferred type of flexible electrophoretic medium for use in the present invention and does not disclose any use of such a medium to hide or reveal a message lying behind the medium.

The 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 28 and 31-39 as unpatentable over Hasegawa in view of Drzaic and Ota, U.S. Patent No. 3,668,106, is traversed for the same

Wilcox et al. Serial No. 09/464,264 Amendment After Final Rejection March 31, 2005 Page 7

reasons as the earlier 35 USC 103(a) rejection discussed above. Ota does nothing to remedy the lack of teaching in Hasegawa and Drzaic regarding the use of an electronic shutter. With regard to the last paragraph on page 7 of the Office Action, it is respectfully noted that column 5, lines 14-15 of Ota is only discussing the need for one or two substantially clear *electrodes* in order to render the optical states of the electrophoretic medium itself visible to an observer on one or both sides of the display, and is not suggesting use of the electrophoretic medium as a shutter to hide or reveal a message located behind the medium.

For the foregoing reasons, the 35 USC 103(a) rejections are unjustified and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims remaining in this application is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection is respectfully requested on the grounds that it will not require extensive review by the Examiner, being confined to supply of one document specifically requested by the Examiner, cancellation of certain claims, and a very brief response to 35 USC 103 rejections based upon references upon which the applicants have had no previous opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted

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